
Child Protection & Psychosocial Support
for Afghan Children and Youth
2nd Quarterly Program Report, July - September 2003

Submitted to the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund

USAID

By

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) on behalf of the NGO Consortium for the
Psychosocial Care and Protection of Children

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**Second Quarter Report (July - September 2003) for USAID
Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program
Cooperative Agreement EEE-A-00-03-00019-00
International Rescue Committee (IRC) - Save the Children – US (SC-US) –
Christian Children’s Fund (CCF)**

CONSORTIUM-WIDE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Goals and Objectives	Results	Indicators
Goal: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved social relationships between children and between children and families. 2. Children experience increased positive feelings. 3. Children engage in increased positive coping and decreased negative coping strategies. 4. Children have more confidence and are engaged in useful activities. 5. Children have broadened visions, and are looking ahead with more positive ideas and thinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency-selected indicators of social relationships (e.g. frequency of fighting) are defined through community participation and used to measure social relationships, comparing baseline levels with those that occur during and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing) - Agency-selected indicators of positive and negative feelings are defined through community participation and used to measure feelings before, during, and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing) - Agency-selected indicators of positive coping (e.g., seeking help when sad) and negative coping (e.g., drug use) are defined through community participation and used to measure coping strategies before, during, and at the end of the project. (Progress with all Consortium members ongoing. Baseline indicators will soon be developed to measure program impact).
Objective 1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities for child protection programs are selected by NGOs. 2. Common threats to child protection, in partnership with NGOs, are identified. 3. Communities use participatory child focused methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of communities selected and location (Progress: Consortium members have begun to work in 52 communities and have identified the remaining communities where work is scheduled to begin in the next quarter) - # and location of communities which have identified common threats to local children (Progress: threats have been identified in 43 communities) - # and type of threats documented in partnership with communities using participatory child focused methods (Progress: physical threats and emotional threats have begun to be identified in all of the communities in which work has begun. Threats include lack of friendship, child abuse, early marriage, illiteracy, traffic, open wells, unsafe bridges, lack of economic opportunities, rabid dogs, and others)
Objective 2: Community based projects to address child	1. Communities take actions to overcome threats which children and youth have identified	- # of threats addressed by target communities with the assistance of Consortium (Progress: in 43 communities, communities have developed mini action plans and have begun to address

protection threats are developed and implemented.	<p>2. NGOs provide training and capacity building opportunities to communities to address child protection threats (trainings may include: participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, child protection, CRC, child protection monitoring, health education, teacher training, ECD, landmine awareness, community mobilization, parenting practices, peace building and conflict resolution, life skills, child to child, youth leadership)</p> <p>3. NGOs offer targeted programs for child and youth development (targeted programs may include: vocational training, income generation, child to child, traffic awareness, recreation, child centered spaces, literacy, infrastructure rehabilitation)</p> <p>4. Youth participate in management committees for all community based projects</p>	<p>some of the physical risks identified)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of projects undertaken with community contribution (Progress: all of the projects are led by the community, including Child Well Being Committees, Men's groups, Women's groups, Youth groups, etc.)) - # and composition of management committees (Progress: all communities have established committees which involve a cross-section of the community) - # and type of trainings delivered (Progress: foundation trainings delivered to Consortium staff and in all target communities. Topics have included: participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, child protection, child protection monitoring, community mobilization, and child to child) - measured improvement in children's psychosocial well being (Progress: measures will be indicated at a later stage of implementation)
Objective 3: Particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities are identified and assisted.	<p>1. Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance</p> <p>2. Communities support these especially vulnerable children and youth (in ways such as small grant provision, input provision)</p> <p>3. Refer especially vulnerable children and youth to appropriate service providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of vulnerable children, youth and families identified through use of child protection monitoring tool (Progress: work in this area will take place during the next quarter) - # of vulnerable children and families assisted through community mobilization (Progress: will come at a later stage of implementation) - # of vulnerable children and families assisted through direct Consortium inputs (Progress: will come at a later stage of implementation)

Objective 4: Advocacy for action occurs on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.	1. Establishment of child protection coordination fora at provincial and national levels. 2. Capacity building of government and other partners concerned with child protection issues 3. Sharing of organizational learning on best practice among consortium members through written reports and meetings	- # of child protection coordination meetings (Progress: 3 meetings were held by Consortium members to exchange lessons learned and develop joint plans) - # of government and partner representatives trained (Progress: 48 government and partner representatives have been trained on Child Protection themes in a formal setting, while others have been involved in more informal discussions and assessments) - regular consortium meetings (Progress: 3 meetings held in Kabul during the reporting period)
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Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program CCF/CFA Second Quarter Report

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Child Fund Afghanistan	Date: 20 October, 2003
Mailing Address Kululapushta	Contact Person: Frederik Prins
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Kabul, Afghanistan	Email: frederikprins@hotmail.com
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: July – September, 2003	
<p><i>(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the original proposal.)</i></p> <p>Two meetings were held with the DCOF consortium partners during the reporting period. Due to a changeover of management for all DCOF partner agencies the first meeting was dedicated to information sharing and updating new management on progress to date. The second meeting focused upon research being conducted by CFA and supported by a team from the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre. Discussions were held around how CFA will develop and define valid psychosocial indicators.</p> <p>As a member of the Consortium, CCF/CFA continued community based activities, including coaching community volunteers and supporting the 40 villages across the three provinces in North Eastern Afghanistan, where male and female Child Well Being Committees were established in the first quarter. In these committees, children used mapping exercises to indicate physical threats to their well-being and presented these to their parents in the form of role plays and other interactive techniques. In the previous quarter these communities had already begun to address those physical risks, including the covering of wells, the reconstruction of bridges, the cleaning of waste and other techniques. These activities were continued, and intensified during the second quarter. Most male and female literacy courses (for over 10,000 students) have now finished Book 2, and continue with Government Book 3. Non-formal education, begun in Child Centered Spaces for 6,000 school-aged children who had no other access to education, is continuing in the same constructive spirit. Training continued to assist community members to understand and respond to emotional risks children face. Similarly, training continues with staff to meet the psychosocial and youth development targets of the next phases of this program.</p> <p>CCF/CFA facilitated the research of monitoring eventual differences in approaches between psycho-social support, and support in physical infrastructure in water and sanitation in the villages. The study contains a qualitative as well as a quantitative part.</p>	
<p>GOAL: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.</p> <p>Indicator and Current Measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observed change in psychosocial well-being of children. 2. Coping mechanisms of primary and secondary stakeholders improved. 	

3. Effects of poverty and protracted conflict reduced.
4. Provided temporary employment to more than 1,000 youth in the target areas.

There have been considerable changes in children's behaviors. The children are now more actively involved in recreation activities such as football and volley ball games. Positive understanding and respect are growing amongst adults and children. Children express their thoughts and ideas with confidence during public gatherings. Moreover, adults are now listening and accepting youth's ideas and activities. Currently adults and children coherently hold periodical meetings to discuss problems and find ways to solve and improve their well-being. Community members (children, youth and adults) are more harmoniously integrated, and enjoy the positive implications of this new habit.

Youth are given new opportunities to improve their skills. Many take part in trades training, some attend literacy classes, and others are actively involved in community social functions. These activities broaden their visions, give confidence, and make them feel important and useful. There are now more than 1,000 youth able to earn their living through temporary employment, through Child Well Being Committees' activities, addressing risks. All these improvements make the children and youth feel physically and mentally healthier; it enables them to become actively involved in community affairs, and it motivates them to engage in the development of their own environment in appropriate ways.

Objective #1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

- In 40 communities in Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces, children have identified, and communities agreed upon common threats to the well-being of children.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

1. 40 communities were selected to participate in the Child Protection Program.
2. 80 community mobilizers were trained to assist children and communities in identifying and addressing protection risks.
3. 80 maps (2 for each community in boy and girl groups) were produced that clearly indicated the nature and location of the physical risks to children.
4. 840 children actively participated in the mapping exercise.
5. 800 parents, youth and children volunteered to serve on Child Well Being Committees including 320 children, 160 men, 160 women, and 80 young men and 80 young women.
6. 500 parents/communities leaders (male and female) and 300 teachers were trained and participated in psychosocial emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights, children's rights, child trafficking, and mine risks seminar.
7. 40 youth clubs and 40 women's associations were established in 40 CWBC communities; approximately 1,500 youth are involved this related activities.

Objective #2: Community based projects, addressing child protection threats, are implemented.

CFA Objective: Child well-being committees, assisted by CFA community mobilizers, overcome physical and psychological threats to child protection.

CFA Indicator and Current measure:

- 80 Child Well Being Committees (one male and one female in each community) have organized their communities, to take decisions around action plans.
- 40 communities continue to clear trash from public and private areas on regular basis.
- Ditches of standing water filled in by local communities.
- 50 km of internal roads and roads between CP communities have been repaired.
- 183 open wells have been covered.

- 23 communities rebuilt small bridges which had posed risks for children.
- 40 communities continue to discuss mine awareness, child rights, human rights and child trafficking issues.
- 4 springs have been constructed to provide safe drinking water.
- A campaign has been organized along with health education training on prevention of infective diseases in relation to water supply for latrine usage and latrines construction.
- Basic health education has been provided on an on-going basis to parents, community leaders and children through CFA integrated program schemes in target areas to promote e.g. personal hygiene, food hygiene, environmental hygiene, and preventional infective diseases in relation to water supply.

CFA Objective: To improve psychosocial well being through the leading of specialized trainings for community members

CFA Indicators and current measure

- Provided training on Psychosocial and Emotional risks, basic health awareness, human rights, child rights, child trafficking and mine risks to 500 parents/communities leaders (male and female) and 300 teachers.
- Set up 40 youth clubs and 40 women's associations.
- Set up 100 football teams and 85 volleyball teams, and provided recreation materials such as footballs, volleyballs, toys, jump ropes, etc.
- Many mullahs provided support during the Friday prayers, by mentioning emotional risks, and warning against engagement of children, early marriage, domestic violence and child trafficking.
- Local institutions both formal and non-formal are up and function again (e.g. women associations, local shura's)

CFA Objective: To improve livelihood opportunities and the physical infrastructure of target communities

CFA Indicators and Current measure:

- 10,000 youth continue to participate in the literacy classes necessary to demonstrate improved literacy and numeracy.
- 6,000 children take advantage of Child Centered Spaces to improve educational abilities and social interactions with other children.
- 180 youth are attending skills training classes.
- Over 1,000 youth directly received benefits from CFA integrated community based projects (cash for work) such as irrigation canals cleaning, road repair, etc;
- People/youth feel more secure; having faith, belief and hope which confidently thrust their lives through difficulties.

Objective #3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

CFA Indicator and Current Measure:

- More than 151 former child soldiers were identified, and 147 are participating in community-based project activities.
- Over 1,000 USD (cash) per month was generated in each targeted community; between 80-100 people, most notably vulnerable families directly benefited from this cash component activity.
- 20 disabled children, 40 adults and 170 widows were involved in CP activities, some were given some winterization items such as blankets, stoves, lanterns (part of CFA's

existing services, provided by UNHCR).
<p>Objective #4: Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.</p> <p>CFA specific Indicator and Current Measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA, in collaboration with UNAMA, UNHCR, NGOs, and Government Agencies like the police department, human right office and Woman Affairs, continued to hold regular meetings on child protection, child trafficking and as well as human rights issues. Hence, action plans and awareness issues were advocated through CWBCs as well as through other local intuitions. • CFA cooperates with e.g. UNICEF and several other (I)NGOs in the Human Rights working group, to address problems like child trafficking and child marriages.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Limit to one half page, include the following:)

The program goal is to improve in a sustainable manner the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children in the northeast, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a protracted conflict environment.

The program has three objectives: (1) identification and reduction of threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities; (2) increased engagement of Afghan children, particularly young children and vulnerable groups, including war victims, with their environment in safe, integrated, developmentally appropriate ways; and (3) increased positive engagement of and developmental learning opportunities for Afghan youth, which improves their learning and positive participation in the community. The program provides direct, urgently needed support in forms such as material assistance to construct latrines; quick impact grants to help repair a shelter or enable economic activity; rapid organization of structured and protective activities for younger and highly vulnerable children. It also mobilizes family and community support for child protection, engages youth in providing material aid and building community structures such as schools, wells, and latrines, organize youth and children in urgently needed child protective activities, support income-generating activities, and support teachers who work with war-affected children.

Beneficiaries

The target communities in the Northeastern provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz and Takhar have been selected because they have been heavily affected by war, poverty and are often underserved by the government-run school system. Children throughout this region have been affected by poverty disfigurement and disability, loss of home, deaths of family members and friends, separation from parents, reductions of economic status, sexual violence, and deprivation of activities such as education that strengthen basic competencies and coping ability.

Locations

No changes in locations took place since the last quarterly report

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

1. Actual Accomplishments

Forty Child Well Being Committees, established in the previous quarter, are highly active. They continue to enjoy considerable popularity with villagers, who are not only increasingly organizing themselves to support children, but are also discussing matters beyond children's issues. Children and youth continue to participate regularly as members in CWBCs meetings, and take an active role in their work. No differences can be observed between the activities of female and male groups. Children continue to use mapping exercises to indicate physical threats to their well-being and present these threats to their parents in the form of role plays and other interactive techniques.

Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

Objective 2

1. Actual Accomplishments

Forty target communities have organized to take action to overcome threats which children and young people have identified. All continue to remove trash, cover wells, fix roads and tie up or fenced animals to respond to their children's concerns. Health hazards to children in villages have been reduced through the collection of trash and the filling in of open ditches which collect water and breed mosquitoes. It is felt that in this way, the communities have taken an ownership in improving the physical wellbeing of the children.

Youth continue to participate actively in both male and female Child Well Being Committees. Child Centered Spaces and literacy programs offer programs targeted to improve children's lives based on their age and stage of development. In addition to formal educational opportunities focusing on mathematics and Dari language skills, CCSs provide psycho-social activities for children in the form of play, music and drama. Literacy programs offer young people an opportunity to gain basic numeracy and literacy skills; approx. 6,000 school aged children attended CCSs, 10,000 attended literacy courses and additional 180 attended skills training classes.

During the first quarter CFA has provided initial training and capacity building opportunities to increase target communities' ongoing capacity to address child protection threats. Community members took a strong interest in reducing the physical threats to children's well-being and thinking through ways to provide a safer and healthier environment for their upbringing. During this quarter CFA provided training to 500 parents/communities leaders and 300 teachers to strengthen their capacity and ability to maximize services, to better understand child protection issues, children's rights, child trafficking, psycho-social emotion risks, mine risks, etc. More training in both practical and methodology in these areas will be provided to CP members, parents and communities leaders on regular basis in the next quarters.

CFA's capacity building aims to alleviate threats to children and youth, and to enable those to cope with future problems and to grow up with healthy feelings in developmental appropriate ways. One of CFA's capacity building opportunities is to provide skills training to youth. Based on the needs and market survey, done during the first quarter, there are 15 different types of vocational training courses established in the target areas. Local experts and craftsmen were selected as trainers. In order to make these training courses more effective, proficient and to be in line with the needs of communities and as well as the market demands, CFA and trainers had developed simple and practical curriculums for the training. There are 180 youth now enrolled in 15 different courses.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

All targets have been met

Objective 3

1. Actual Accomplishments

151 former child soldiers were identified; they are now actively involved in various activities; many enrolled in literacy, CCSs, and vocation training classes. Some are now directly involved in CWBCs' activities; others participate in civic works. Widows and groups of youth are also involved in some kind of activities through CWBCs' physically and mentally risks addressing process.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

All targets have been met

Objective 4

1. Actual Accomplishments

In the first quarter CFA met with relevant government and UN representatives to share goals and objectives for the program activities and increase their awareness of children's development and protection needs. These meetings have set the stage for developing appropriate practices and mechanisms in the next quarter according to the particular needs of the region.

In the second quarter CFA staff have been actively involved in the Human Rights working group meetings, child trafficking seminar and various child protection issue with UNAMA, UNHCR, other NGOs, Government agencies (Police department, Human right office, and Women Affairs). These meetings will continue to be held in CFA field offices on a monthly basis, to exchange views, ideas and mechanisms to address Child Protection issues. To strengthen the capacity building process, the head of the local human right office will chair the meeting. So far, constructive discussions took place on information sharing among NGOs and Government agencies; the details are being worked out.

As mentioned before, monthly consortium meetings have been held to facilitate the sharing of organizational learning among members.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

All target have been met

B. Success Stories

Mapping exercises by children to explain their concerns to adult members of the Child Well Being Committees have been extraordinarily successful. First, a group of 10 to 12 boys and 10 to 12 girls in each village were asked to draw a map of their village and identify places that were dangerous or where accidents happen. Second, the children were asked to identify two top priorities and present them to their villages by means of a role play which evoked a great deal of discussion about what can be done to address the risks. In many cases, community members hurried to eliminate dangers that children experienced once they learned about them. The following success story tells of young Noor Nisa who participates in a Child Well Being Committee..

My name is Noor Nisa and I am 15 years old. I live in Nowabad village in Khuhar Ghar district in Takhar Province. I lost my mother; she was pregnant, during the war against the Taliban forces. She was killed whilst washing dishes in the yard.

It happened one day during the fight there were rockets and gun fires in our villages. I was terribly afraid and ran into our home. There, I saw my mother was laying on the ground and covering with blood. We were terrified and frightened and did not know what to do. All we could do was to cry and cry and cry.....

My father was a driver, nearly always out and hardly at home. When the Taliban moved closer and closer to our village, lots of bombs and explosives exploded nearby. It was just too much for us and we were so afraid. Thereafter we decided to evacuate and move to Dasht e Qala village. Here it was very difficult for us; my father had to look after us and also had to earn his living to support us. We felt hurt, very lonely and afraid. We did not have anyone here taking care of us, and we missed our mother very much. We often cried painfully.

When the war was over we moved back to our own village and started to build a new house. Not much later our father remarried. We hoped to start a new life again. However, things were not working out as we would like it to be; for no reason our step mother was always in an angry mood, and looking for reasons to hit or punish us. We had to do all the housework, and often she did not agree with how the work had been done. She would yell and say bad things to us.

After my mother died, I had been crying and did not remember if there were any days at all that I did not cry. Since I joined the CWBC, set up by CFA, I feel happy, and do not cry as much as I used to. I like to work with this CWBC. I now have the opportunity to do some work, and to learn new things. It gives me the opportunity to meet new friends, with whom I can talk and play with. When I talk to them and I feel relax, happy and more secure. For our future I would like to see permanent peace, and to have a more secured life.

C. Obstacles

Due to the effects of war and isolation, some community members expressed concerns over the motives of outsiders entering the community to bring women and children together and into leadership positions. However, through time and careful introduction, and with the experience and good reputation built up already, these community members could be convinced that the CWBC activities are consistent with their long-standing values and traditions. Another initial problem, i.e. the limited CFA staff experience, is gradually solved: staff training and coaching is going on, and practical experience is obtained on a daily basis. The longest serving expatriate CCF/CFA staff member, who actually set up the CFA part in the consortium, resigned. The African Child Protection specialist, just becoming productive, was requested to return to serve his home area in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The present staff is filling the gaps with commonsense and a lot of child affection. Recruitment of a long term Child Protection specialist is in full swing. When this vacancy will be filled (hopefully in the third quarter) the team of expatriate advisers will be completed. Continuity in Afghan and expatriate staff is expected to further improve the results.

D. Miscellaneous

One session in the three days' senior staff "Strategic Planning Workshop" (9-11 September) was devoted to Child Protection issues. The discussions led to more clarity and a better understanding of Child Protection issues, and the relation with the Education Dept. and other sections.

RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed

(Provide a brief summarization of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures - Budget report submitted under separate cover to USAID in Washington.

Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program SC/US Second Quarter DCOF report – 10 October 2003

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: Save the Children US	Date: 27 October, 2003
Mailing Address: Darul Aman Main Road Sher Kat Bus Stop, Ayoob Khan Mena Kabul, Afghanistan	Contact Person: Susan Erb Telephone: 070 298 247 Email: serb@afg.savechildren.org
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Program	
Country: Afghanistan	
Period Covered by this Report: July – September, 2003	
<p><i>(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the original proposal.)</i></p> <p>Two meetings were held with DCOF-funded Consortium partners (July and August) to discuss continuing activities and learn about the Child Fund Afghanistan (CFA) child well-being research in Takhar and Kunduz Provinces. Due to the change in International Rescue Committee (IRC) project leadership, two extended meetings were held between SC/US and IRC (CFA was unavailable) to bring the new IRC project leader up to date on logistical issues from Q1, including the project's detailed implementation plan (DIP), reporting structures and the indicators for children's psychosocial well-being. At the August meeting, the new CFA project point person was introduced to all Consortium members, and activities updates were shared. This achieved the goal of having regular program learning meetings among, and information sharing between, Consortium members. Due to extensive staff changes at Consortium members, the strong working relationship evident in Q1 has had to be rebuilt. Per its commitment as part of the Consortium, SC/US continued community-based activities in five communities with the start of <i>Child-to-Child</i> Phase One activities. In September, the foundation was laid for <i>Child-to-Child</i> groups in four more sites.</p>	
<p>PROJECT GOAL: To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.</p> <p>Indicator and Current Measure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Observed change in psychosocial well-being of children Coping mechanisms of primary and secondary stakeholders improved Effects of poverty and protracted conflict reduced <p>As a result of the two meetings noted above, all Consortium partners are addressing three domains (areas of focus) of psychosocial well-being for their impact on children: their relationships, their feelings, and their positive coping. In consultation with its Child Protection team and community members, SC/US chose three domains, which were identified by <i>The Children of Kabul</i> research project and which sought to identify children's perceptions of well-being. These are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ domain one – interpersonal disputes between children, ❖ domain two – worrying about fighting with and among other children, and ❖ domain three – development of moral values and system of culturally appropriate behavior (called <i>tarbia</i> in Dari). <p>For the remainder of the project, psychosocial well-being will be measured according to the degree or level of activities and behavior change that occurs for and with children within the domains cited. For example, if the degree or level of fighting, or worry about fighting, decreases among the children of a community, and if their <i>tarbia</i> increases as a result, SC/US will consider that the project has had a positive impact of children's psychosocial well-being.</p>	

Objective #1: Common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities are identified.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **Nine communities for child protection programs selected** – With the help of five community promoters and 76 volunteer facilitators, 608 children in five communities in Kabul have been selected to identify threats to their well-being using the Child-to-Child approach. Child-to-Child programs have begun in five communities: Arzan Qimat (three locations), Char Qala/Qala Wazir, and Shi Khan, where children and their communities have been exploring the issue of friendship. To expand the program, four more community promoters in four new locations were identified, and community trainings held in September in Gangalak, Dadana, Qala Shir Kahn, and Rish Khooor to train volunteer facilitators.
2. **Common threats to child protection, in partnership with NGOs, are identified** – As noted above, Child-to-Child programs in five communities reach 608 children and the identification of threats to them has focused on issues of friendship. Specifically, the children in the five communities have discussed how fighting over limited resources interferes the possibility of having strong friendships. At the end of September, in addressing this problem, the children had reached Step Four (implementation of the community action plan) of the Child-to-Child program and were cooperating with the community to reach solutions to issues raised.
3. **Communities use participatory child focused methods** – SC/US has undertaken a variety of activities to ensure that communities and children can successfully use participatory child-focused methods, including mapping and role-playing, to identify threats to children.

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. Nine communities selected in Kabul city and surrounds
2. 608 children in 76 *Child-to-Child* groups in five communities in Kabul and surrounds have concerns about creating and sustaining positive and nurturing friendships.
3. Fighting has been identified as a threat to children's ability to sustain good friendships. Two specific threats have been identified as causes of fighting among children: lack of water in wells and limited resources (specifically toys and educational materials).

Objective #2: Community based projects to address child protection threats are developed.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **Communities take action to overcome threats which children and youth have identified** – To date, communities have not completed action plans, nor begun the process of taking action to overcome threats; these activities are planned for October.
2. **NGOs provide training and capacity building opportunities to communities to address child protection threats** (e.g., participatory child focused methods, psychosocial support, CRC, child protection monitoring, health education, teacher training, ECD, landmine awareness, community mobilization, parenting practices, peace building and conflict resolution, life skills, Child-to-Child, youth leadership) – 76 facilitators were trained in the Child-to-Child approach to create and facilitate groups for 608 children in five communities. Six trainings were held in Q2 for 160 community members to introduce the Child-to-Child program to them, provided skills in community mobilization for men, women and youth, and to outline the process and timeline for establishing and supporting Child-to-Child work in communities.
3. **NGOs offer targeted programs for child and youth development** (e.g., vocational and literacy training; income generation, Child-to-Child, traffic awareness and recreation activities; child-centered spaces and infrastructure rehabilitation) – No action to date; this will follow communities identifying needs as part of Step Four of the Child-to-Child program.
4. **Youth participate in management committees for all community based projects** – Youth committees have been formed in four of the five communities where Child-to-Child groups are active. Youth have encouraged community members to attend the Child-to-Child presentations, in October, and to locate volunteer facilitators to run the *Child-to-Child* groups.

Objective #2, continued

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. # of threats addressed by communities with help from Consortium – in process, expected for Q3
2. # of projects undertaken with community contribution – in process, expected for Q3
3. 16 community committees formed in Q1 from Arzan Qimat and District 6: 4 fathers' committees (26 members), 4 mothers' committees (26 members), 4 male youth committees (29 members), and 4 female youth committees (29 members).
4. Six trainings delivered – community mobilization for adults (August: 8 men/8 women, September: 4 men/4women); community mobilization for youth (July 14 boys/0 girls, September 15 boys/15 girls); third phase of *Child-to-Child* training for promoters and volunteer facilitators (September: 15 male/13 female and 0 male/32 female).
5. 160 participants (56 men and 104 women)
6. # of caregivers implementing skills delivered during training – in process, expected for Q3
7. Measured improvement in children's psychosocial well being – will measure at end of grant
8. 608 children participating in *Child-to-Child* groups
9. 58 youth participating in youth committees

Objective #3: Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

SC/US Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **Communities identify particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in need of special assistance** – Prior to identifying especially vulnerable children and referring them to appropriate service providers, SC/US plans train community promoters and volunteer facilitators to use a child protection monitoring tool (developed with SC/Alliance partners in 2003), which will enable participants to explain the meaning of child rights and child protection; use the child protection monitoring tool in their communities; help children (and adults) use participatory methods that enable them to identify, prioritize, analyze and plan for action on protection issues that affect them; explain how child protection issues can be addressed through community mobilization; promote children's participation and involvement of relevant authorities and agencies; and write child protection monitoring reports and submit them to appropriate agencies. These trainings are planned for the final six months of the project. By that time it is expected that group threats, i.e., those that affect all (most) children in a group, will have been addressed, so a focus on individual case (threat) identification and assistance can begin.
2. **Communities support these especially vulnerable children and youth**
3. **Refer especially vulnerable children and youth to appropriate service providers through the community committees**

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. # of vulnerable children, youth and families identified through use of child protection monitoring tool
2. # of vulnerable children and families assisted through community mobilization
3. # of vulnerable children and families assisted through direct Consortium inputs

Objective #4: Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

SC/US specific Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **Establishment of child protection coordination forum in Kabul** – 32 staff from 15 child-focused agencies participated in two child protection trainings held in September 2003. These trainings now serve as the basis for a child protection coordination forum in Kabul. Twenty-two participants from 9 NGOs (InterSOS, YCUAP, EMDH, ACF, OMAR, SVF, Aschiana, HIFA, and SC/UK) participated in a training (September 7-11) and 10 participants from 8 NGOs (EMDH, Aschiana, ICMC, OI, NRC-ILAC, AAB, CIC, and YCCF) participated in a training (September

23-25).

Objective #4, continued

2. **Capacity building of Kabul-based government and other partners concerned with child protection issues through child protection training** – the *The Children of Kabul* report launch was held July 1, 2003 and included a full-day workshop with 40 government and NGO partners learning about child protection and children's psychosocial well being.

Consortium Indicator and Current Measure:

1. **One child protection coordination meeting** – On September 7, 2003, members of the SC/Alliance (SC/US, SC/UK and SC/Sweden) met and agreed to adopt a common approach to child protection monitoring and response in Afghanistan based on the child protection tool developed by the Alliance. Each agency further agreed to act as a child protection focal point in their respective geographic implementation areas throughout the country, implementing child protection projects in those places, and to build child protection and monitoring capacity in other organizations.
2. **7 NGOs request and receive specialized training and technical assistance on child protection**
3. **# of government and partner representatives trained** – no action in Q2
4. **Joint strategic objectives developed and agreed upon** – no action in Q2
5. **Regular consortium meetings** – Monthly meetings were held in August and September with full representation by Consortium members; meeting planned for October 28, 2003.
6. **Regular reports generation and disseminated among Consortium partners** – Documentation from Consortium meetings has been shared via email between all partners. A brief summation of initial results from a CFA research initiative based on an exploration of 'well-being' amongst Afghan children in the northeast were shared with other Consortium members at the August meeting. CFA anticipates being able to share the first draft of the entire report with partners in October.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW *(Limit to one half page, include the following:)*

A. SC/US Program Goal and Objectives – To enhance children’s well being by increasing community-based capacity for children’s protection and psychosocial support

SC/US programs for psychosocial support of children are based on the belief that adequate child protection must include the protection of children’s emotional and social well-being – as well as their physical well-being. However, protection concerns for Afghan children currently outstrip the capacity of child-focused agencies in Afghanistan. Recognizing the need to create and expand capacity for children’s protection, SC/US is proposing a new child protection and psychosocial support project for children in the Kabul city. The overall aim of the project is to enhance children’s well being by increasing community-based capacity for children’s protection and psychosocial support. The project is designed as a follow up project to a series of information gathering exercises conducted during the six-month *Children of Kabul* research project, which identified threats to children’s protection and psychosocial well being. The project aims to reduce and resolve these threats by mobilizing children and community members to take action on the issues identified.

A key strategy that SC/US will use in mobilizing children to take action on identified threats is to implement child to child programs, which give children the knowledge to improve their situation, encourage them to become active in changing the situation in their communities and elicit the support of parents in making these changes. So that children involved in these programs can see real changes on the issues they identify, SC/US will mobilize parents and youth committees to support *Child-to-Child* programs through the implementation of practical solutions. While the majority of the proposal will build sustainable community capacity for child protection and psychosocial support, the proposal also includes: an objective for a city wide campaign on one of the threats to child protection identified in the research; an objective to support families and parents in child protection and psychosocial support; and an objective for advocacy on effective child protection policy and practice in the Afghan context.

B. Beneficiaries

12,650 children – 1,150 children through direct participation in the child to child programs and an additional 11,500 children informed about the *Child-to-Child* topics from direct participants; it is anticipated that each child in the child to child groups will reach an additional 10 children through sharing and implementation of action plans.

C. Locations – 3 districts of Kabul city

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Promoters</i>
Kabul	12	Arzan Qaimat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48 <i>Child-to-Child</i> (CtC) groups created, topic of friendship discussed, threats identified, action plans developed Discussion of 2nd topic (environment) set for October 	April 2003	384	Jamila, Toorpakai, Suhila
Kabul	6	Char Qala & Qala Wazir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 CtC groups created (112 children), topic of friendship discussed, threats identified, action plans developed Discussion of 2nd topic (environment) set for October 	April 2003	112	Karima Najmi
Kabul	Shi Khan	Mirachs Kot	As above	April 2003	112	Abdul Safa
Kabul		Gangalak	CtC groups created	September 2003	128 expected, still gathering data	Austad Taleb
Kabul	7	Dahdana	CtC groups created	September 2003	128 expected, still gathering data	Dr. Wali
Kabul	Shi Khan	Qala Shir Khan	CtC groups created	September 2003	128 expected, still gathering data	Zekria
Kabul		Rish Khooor	CtC groups created	September 2003	128 expected, still gathering data	Austad Admad Shah

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

1. Actual Accomplishments

SC/US set up 76 child to child groups for 608 children in five communities and began start up activities for *Child-to-Child* groups in four additional communities.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

Objective 2

3. Actual Accomplishments

To date, communities have not completed action plans, nor begun the process of taking action to overcome threats. This is expected for Q3 for the first five communities.

However, fathers, mothers, male youth and female youth committees have been formed in four of the five communities where *Child-to-Child* groups are active.

4. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are two weeks behind schedule due to security risks that delayed community activities in August. This delay, however, should not substantially affect action plan completion goals.

Objective 3

1. Actual Accomplishments

No activities yet this quarter.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

No activities yet this quarter; according to the work plan, activities will begin in Q3 when action plans have been made by the first five communities.

Objective 4

1. Actual Accomplishments

In September, 32 staff from 15 NGO partner organizations were trained on child protection monitoring and response skills. Those who have attended trainings made commitments on behalf of their organizations to carry on with child protection work.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Targets are being met according to the work plan.

E. Success Stories

One interesting result of the *Child-to-Child* groups has been that children in some communities are showing a greater sensitivity to and inclusiveness of vulnerable children in their communities. For instance in Arzan Qimat, the children said that they used to tease disabled children and did not allow them to participate in games. But, children attending a *Child-to-Child* group decided to talk with other children in their community to address this issue. Initially, they received criticism and scorn from other children in the community, but slowly, children have changed their attitudes and now invite all children, both able-bodied and disabled, to share in community games. This shows that children have been successful in starting to develop life skills such as critical and creative thinking and improved interpersonal and communication skills.

F. Obstacles

The SC/US Project Coordinator resigned at the end of June, and the position was still vacant at the end of September due to the low experience level of applicants. Leadership responsibilities have now

been delegated to others on the staff, but this has had an impact on timely achievement of goals. Still, it is expected that this short-term solution of apportioning leadership responsibilities will allow for uninterrupted continuation of work plan goals.

IV. RESOURCE USE / EXPENDITURE

A. Resources Committed – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

(Provide a brief summarization of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures – Budget report submitted under separate cover.

***Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth
The International Rescue Committee - Second Quarterly Report for the
Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF)***

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organization: The International Rescue Committee	Date: 13 th October 2003
Mailing Address: House 61, Kochi Afghana, Shash Darak, District 9, Kabul	Contact Person: David Murphy
Program Title: Child Protection and Psychosocial Support for Afghan Children and Youth	Telephone: +93 70 401 476
Country: Afghanistan	Period covered by report: July - September 2003

(Briefly summarize the activities undertaken during the reporting period detailing progress made towards achievements of the program goals and whether expected results remain unchanged from the organizational proposal.)

Two meetings were held with the DCOF consortium partners during the reporting period. Due to a changeover of management for all DCOF partner agencies the first meeting was dedicated to information sharing and updating new management on progress to date. The second meeting focused upon research being conducted by CFA and supported by a team from the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre. Discussions were held around how CFA will develop and define valid psychosocial indicators.

The IRC continued trainings for the Child Protection team and seven temporary community group facilitators who were hired to conduct community assessments. A survey to identify and prioritize risks and threats to children began in August and was scheduled to finish on October 1st. In addition to conducting focus group discussions the assessment period was used to pilot a child friendly monitoring and evaluation tool. Despite awaiting outcomes from the community surveys to inform consequent program activities the IRC identified several areas of intervention ahead of assessment analysis. In response to significant areas of concern highlighted in all of the targeted communities some program activities were begun. These included initiation of a Mobile Library Scheme, development of Child Friendly Spaces, and distribution of educational and art materials.

A regional Child Protection Network meeting was convened by the IRC with strategies, aims and objectives of how the group might best function to address child welfare issues agreed upon. The meeting was attended by regional child focused agencies, UN agencies and local government. Training in the Child Protection Monitoring and Response tool was offered to child focused agencies to maximize capacity and standardize approaches of all those working in the child protection arena.

II. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

(Limit to one half page, include the following:)

D. Program Goal & Objectives

(Restate the goal and objectives of the program as outlined in the proposal)

Goal:

To improve, in a sustainable manner, the psychosocial well-being and development opportunities of Afghan children, enabling primary and secondary stakeholders to cope better with the effects of a poverty-stricken, protracted conflict environment.

Objectives:

1. Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.
2. Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.
3. Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.
4. Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

Objective # 1: Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities

- 1.1 14 Communities selected in Herat Province. 4 communities in Enjil district, 4 communities in Ghorian district, 4 communities in Adraskan, and 2 communities in Herat City
- 1.2 a Survey employing child friendly participatory methods and focus group discussions conducted in 14 communities
- 1.2 b Child friendly M&E tools developed to identify psychosocial indicators piloted in 14 communities

Objective # 4: Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national levels.

- 4.1** A total of 2 Child Protection Meetings held
4.2 One training conducted in Child Protection Monitoring & Response with local child focused agency
4.3 Strategy for inter-agency child protection approach agreed with regional partners

E. Beneficiaries

(Profile of the target population and the critical needs identified in the proposal)

11,500 children, their families and communities will benefit from this program. Due to the nature of the post war environment in Afghanistan all children are seen as being vulnerable. The protracted conflict and poverty stricken environment has resulted in a slow degradation in the ability of all families and communities to protect their children. It is true that there are groups of especially vulnerable children (street working children, disabled children, children in contact with the war, etc.) exist, however the numbers are quite small and the situation is not as bad as might be expected. Due to the erosion of family and community coping mechanisms, all children are seen to be at risk and in need of support. This program seeks to improve children's psychosocial well-being and reduce threats to child protection by strengthening family and communities' abilities to protect and support their children, while at the same time addressing the needs of particularly vulnerable cases as they are identified.

F. Locations

(Geographic locations of all major program activities)

Twelve villages in Herat province and two communities in Herat city have been selected for this program. These are as follows:

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>
Herat	Adraskan	Sange Sia	Baseline data identifying community resources collected.	Aug 2003	Sept 2003
			Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted.	Aug 2003	Oct 2003
			Child Friendly M&E tool piloted	Aug 2003	

			Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	
Herat	Adraskan	Barmallan	Baseline data identifying community resources collected. Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Adraskan	Kashafi	Baseline data identifying community resources collected. Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Adraskan	Shahbed	Baseline data identifying community resources collected. Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Enjil	Eshaq Solaiman	Baseline data identifying community resources collected. Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003

			Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	
Herat	Enjil	Oqab	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Enjil	Kharghaltan	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Enjil	Sarvestan	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Ghorian	Dehran	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks &	Aug 2003 Aug 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003

			threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	
Herat	Ghorian	Estanoo	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Ghorian	Baran Abad	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Ghorian	Rooshnaneqalaejawhar	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated. Child Friendly Spaces prepared.	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003
Herat	Herat City, District 7	Shalbafan	Baseline data identifying community resources collected	Aug 2003	Sept 2003

			Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Oct 2003
Herat	Herat City, District 8	Gazergah	Baseline data identifying community resources collected Survey identifying risks & threats to children conducted. Child Friendly M&E tool piloted Education Materials distributed. Mobile Library Scheme initiated	Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Aug 2003 Sept 2003 Sept 2003	Sept 2003 Oct 2003

III. PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

A. Performance

Objective 1

Identify common threats to the protection and psychosocial well-being of Afghan children and youth in targeted communities.

(Describe the program performance, vis-à-vis the program objectives as outlined in the grant. For each objective, provide the following information:)

1. Actual Accomplishments

(Actual accomplishments compared to stated objectives, indicators and targets established for the reporting period. Provide both supporting quantitative and qualitative information. Accomplishments must show both progress made during reporting and cumulative achievements.)

In order to get the focus group discussions and associated activities started as soon as feasibly possible, 7 temporary surveyors/group facilitators were hired. The new staff members were identified through a selection day, presented by the original DCOF team, and although the majority have previously worked with NGO's none had specific child protection experience – as was the case with our original team members. Beginning August 10th, the entire team underwent an intensive 2 week training on the following topics:

- Effective Communication Skills
- Active Listening Skills
- How to Communicate with Children
- Interviewing Techniques
- Group Facilitation Skills
- Accurate Recording of data and narratives
- Structured activities with children
- Children's realities – incorporating basic psychosocial issues
- Piloting child friendly M&E tools and techniques

The team was restructured to include a second Program Manager specifically responsible for gender and with a primary focus on issues of child marginalisation.

The survey incorporating Focus Group Discussions (FGD's) and associated structured children's activities which commenced on Monday August 25th, were designed to identify and prioritize risks and threats to children. Pre-assessment baseline data to identify existing community resources and population profiles were conducted ahead of the survey. Each of the 14 selected communities had a total of 3 group discussions over a five-week period ending on October 1st. The first 2 sessions were scheduled over concurrent days with a follow up session a week later. The logic of this approach is that the first 2 sessions should be dedicated to identifying risks and threats and beginning the process of prioritisation at the community level. The follow up visit will confirm preliminary findings and priorities and initiate the first steps towards possible solutions. This should include the formation of community groups – e.g. women's groups, youth and children's groups. However, it is felt in reality, the opportunity for the formation of sustainable and effective community groups will be governed to a greater extent by linkages to and ownership of specific program activities and inputs that are likely to evolve and strengthen with program implementation and development.

Every community had 6 discrete groups participating in the FGD'S each numbering 10 members. Groups were disaggregated according to age and gender and included 1 women's group, 1 men's group, 1 girl's group aged 6 – 10 years, 1 boy's group aged 6 –

10 years, 1 girl's group aged 10 – 15 years, and 1 boy's group aged 10 – 15 years. Therefore a total of 840 individuals were interviewed during the survey period of which 560 were children.

Techniques for working with children and youth groups included drawings and narratives, body mapping, risk mapping, smiley face charts and daily picture journals. Some of these activities were designed to pilot as a monitoring and evaluation tool. One such method is a smiley face journal in which children were asked to keep a pictorial journal of daily events. Each event was then rated with a happy (smiley), sad, worried/anxious, or angry face according to how they felt and perceived the event. The use of face representations was chosen because recognition of emotion through facial expression is a universal phenomenon and therefore not culturally specific. We worked on the assumption that children of the age with which we are working should be able to represent the different face types. This assumption was briefly tested during the training period with groups of children at the younger end of the age range to those participating in the community surveys. During the pilot phase the books were collected from each of the children's groups in the follow up week session. The content of the journals is currently being analysed to identify risks and threats to child welfare and to examine their validity and robustness as a monitoring and evaluation tool from which baseline data regarding the current situation of children can be obtained, measurable objectives identified and subsequent change measured.

Despite the emphasis on waiting for the outcome of the survey data to inform consequent program activities a number of areas of intervention are already apparent and can be identified as definite programs within the project. These include:

- Education
- Income Generation
- Child Friendly Spaces
- Early Marriage

2. Reasons why targets were not met

(Reasons why established targets were not met, if applicable, and how it will impact the objective. Discuss how the impact has been, or will be, addressed.)

As the IRC had no previous Child Protection programs in Afghanistan it was necessary to recruit and train the entire Child Protection team which inevitably led to a delay in beginning the initial surveys to prioritize risks and threats to children. Secondly, in accordance with the participatory approach agreed in the proposal, IRC have used a methodology to increase understanding and assimilation of the training materials, allowing the team to produce their own resource notes. Instead of just providing handouts – which tend to get put into files and seldom referred to again – the trainees review each topic and as a group, produce their own 'hand outs' which could

be used as the basis for developing TOT for the communities later. This approach reinforces newly learned concepts and skills and also highlights any areas of confusion and topics, which may need revisiting. It also provides the opportunity for the team to insert their own cultural and linguistic terminologies to concepts such as ‘brain storming’ and ‘ground rules’. Thirdly, staff required comprehensive trainings to provide them with the child friendly skills necessary to facilitate valid survey outcomes. We therefore had to strike a balance between ensuring staff were properly trained and meeting project timeframes. To address this issue additional temporary facilitators were hired. Finally, the survey is due to be completed on October 1st. This is regrettably later than indicated in original timeframe projections however we are confident that with a well-trained team, and continued dedication and commitment to the project, effective programming will be implemented in a timely manner.

Objective 2

Develop community based projects to address child protection threats.

1. Actual Accomplishments

In response to concerns voiced by children in every community surveyed concerning lack of access to basic educational materials, particularly books, we have initiated a mobile library. An ambulance, no longer in service to IRC, has been reconditioned and refurbished to house books and magazines. In addition to providing communities with a changing variety of books (picture & story), news, and magazines on a bi-weekly basis, therefore ensuring that material is available to the maximum number of beneficiaries it is envisaged that the library will foster links between communities. Ideas currently being explored include art and photographic presentations produced by community groups and displayed to neighbouring communities via the library. Community input, especially from the children, will be vital in developing this. The library will also distribute a children’s magazine, which includes children’s contributions. The magazine would welcome contributions from children in the communities served through this project and can therefore serve as a medium for a child to child approach in highlighting risks to child welfare as well as stories of success in meeting and overcoming life challenges, awareness raising and advocacy for child rights. Management of the library including lending policy will be the responsibility of community groups.

During September 1,960 notebooks, pencils, and art materials were distributed between the 14 communities targeted in this project. The materials were provided to support existing community literacy and non-formal education programs currently conducted through existing community structures.

Education however remains a primary concern for all of the communities surveyed and must be acknowledged as a key component in addressing child protection issues. Of the 12 communities in which we are working outside of Herat city, 5 have no school at all. Of the remaining 7 villages, 5 have primary schools and 2 have secondary schools however demand outweighs capacity leaving many children without access to education. Having discussed the issue with the IRC Education department a meeting has been scheduled with the Minister of Education to develop a strategy for provision of education to those communities currently underserved. We intend to use established IRC methods developed over years of experience in working with Afghan teachers and students in community based education.

Another initiative, which was begun in September, is the development of child friendly spaces. This is in response to an overwhelming concern from the children regarding a lack of safe areas in which to play. We have had playground equipment for six communities made and they are ready for transportation to the communities. The communities have identified and prepared safe plots of land suitable for use as child friendly spaces and have agreed to paint and maintain playground equipment. Schemes to ensure that girls are given equal opportunity to use the spaces and equipment are being developed.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Community based projects to address child protection issues will be informed by the outcome of the assessments. Consequently revisions in the timeframe for completion of the assessments have impacted upon commencing program activities – which will begin in the next quarter. However in response to issues significantly identified by all of the target communities IRC has begun to develop some program activities ahead of the assessment results. Community input in implementing and managing these activities will form the basis for developing community committees.

Objective 3

Identify and assist particularly vulnerable children, youth and families in targeted communities.

1. Actual Accomplishments

Discussions were held with UNHCR and IOM concerning identification, monitoring, protection and response services to UAM's, returnee, IDP and other vulnerable children. IRC agreed that it would develop community based child protection committees whereby community members would be trained in the Child Protection Monitoring & Response tool and formulate reporting mechanisms to ensure information was relayed to the agencies concerned and referral services to support programs effected. This would incorporate

prioritized inclusion into programs in the communities in which IRC Child Protection is operational. In addition IRC will train other regional child focused agencies in the Child Protection Monitoring & Response tool to facilitate an extended and standardized child protection response.

2. Reasons why targets were not met

Analysis of the survey data will identify particularly vulnerable groups of children in the targeted communities. The IRC will assist and train community groups in Child Protection, Monitoring & Response. Activities appropriate to the needs of those children identified as vulnerable will be developed with an emphasis on community integration and participation. Vulnerable children are expected to be equally represented in community mobilization, advocacy, and education initiatives and to play an integral role in the formation of children's and youth groups.

Objective 4

Advocate for action on child protection issues at provincial and national level.

1. Actual Accomplishments

The IRC recently initiated and hosted the first regional Child Protection Network meeting, which was attended by all local child, focused agencies, UN agencies and some local government agencies. One of the major items discussed was how we could best work together as an inter-agency group to effect policy and practice on child protection issues.

It was agreed that the network would serve as a forum for identifying issues on which uniform approaches and standards could be agreed and used to inform individual agency programming. For example the use of standardized messages in awareness raising and mass information campaigns on issues such as road safety awareness, child rights, and early marriage as well as advocacy initiatives. Also in addition to information sharing and coordination of child protection activities, agencies will share training resources to maximize the capacity of all child protection staff. Trainings made available to all child-focused agencies will include the Child Monitoring and Response tool developed through Save the Children alliance. This will facilitate community based Child Protection committees developed through existing community groups and structures operational in areas where agencies are already working. Community Child Protection Committees would be trained to provide support services, identification and monitoring of particularly vulnerable children. Information will be relayed to organizations such as UNHCR and Unicef and referral services identified in an effective manner. UNHCR are very supportive of this approach and we have offered to provide trainings to other child focused

agencies in Child Protection Monitoring and Response. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th when development of a strategy for implementing this will be discussed.

2. *Reasons why targets were not met*

Targets are currently being met in line with planned activities.

Success Stories

(Provide Success stories, if available, which illustrates the direct, positive effects of your program on individual children, families or communities.)

The enthusiasm with which children have participated in the assessment activities has been very encouraging. Over 400 smiley face journals have been collected during the reporting period and the early results indicate that they are an effective way of getting children to identify risks and threats to their welfare. This method appears to be especially effective in obtaining information concerning issues such as early marriage which children and young girls may find more difficult to articulate through verbal discussion and narrative.

G. Obstacles

(Explain how unforeseen circumstances affected overall program performance compared to original assumptions, if applicable. Further, explain how activities were accordingly adjusted or re-targeted.)

The key obstacle affecting program performance to date has been an underestimation in the time needed to recruit and train staff in the skills necessary to begin project implementation. Unlike other consortium partners, the IRC have began child protection programming in Afghanistan as an entirely new initiative. We have therefore had to develop a workable approach that addresses these constraints without compromising the quality of program delivery and this has inevitably impacted on original timeframe projections. However, we are now confident that, having received intensive training, the Child Protection team is fully capable of implementing effective community based child protection interventions, and this has been reflected in the standard of their work during this reporting period. We therefore expect to begin major implementation of activities in the next quarter.

IV. RESOURCE USE/EXPENDITURE:

A. Resources Committed

(Provide a brief summary of the resources committed during the reporting period. When appropriate and the output of the program objectives can be readily quantified, such data should be related to unit costs. Include other pertinent financial information including analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs.)

B. Expenditures

Budget report submitted separately.